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Patterson's Committee Assignments Announced

January 3, 2003 – Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, today was named by Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, to the Health Policy Committee (Vice Chair), the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (Vice Chair) and the Judiciary Committee (member).

"Senator Patterson brings extensive knowledge and experience of the legislative process to the Health Policy Committee, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, and the Judiciary Committee," Sikkema said. "His leadership and ability to work with Republicans and Democrats will be a tremendous asset to the citizens of Michigan."

The Health Policy Committee handles legislation regarding health care workers, hospitals, HMOs and legislation regarding Blue Cross/Blue Shield. It also considers legislation on mental health, disease prevention and treatment, end of life issues, and hospice care.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee covers a wide range of environmental issues, including rails to trails programs, land conservation, environmental protection programs and laws, hunting and fishing topics and parks.

The Judiciary committee is responsible for legislation regarding the judicial system and criminal law, including crime victims' rights.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on these Senate committees and will continue to work tirelessly drafting meaningful and effective legislation crucial to the welfare of Michigan's citizens and economy," said Senator Patterson. "I also look forward to helping seniors control costs of their prescriptions by introducing legislation allowing Michigan to join with other states for wholesale bulk pricing."

Senator Patterson's accomplishments include the passage of the clean water bond initiative - Proposal 2, the development of the 35th district court judgeship currently held by newly elected Justice Mike Gerou, and House Bill 4195 (Public Act 11 of 2002) which created a 24 hour nursing home resident representative. He served as chairman of the House Oversight and Operations Committee and was the first freshman lawmaker elected to the position of Associate Speaker Pro Tempore, followed by a promotion to House Majority Floor Leader in 2001.

Patterson represents the 16 Wayne county communities: the City of Northville, Northville Township, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Sumpter Township, Huron Township, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Trenton, Grosse Ile Township, Gibraltar and Rockwood.